

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 NEA-10 INR-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 HA-05
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DRAFTED BY AF/I:MLCHESHES/IO/UNA:JTEFFT
APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE
AF:LWALKER
AF/I:WHLEWIS
NEA/AFN:JBISHOP(DRAFT)
IO/ML:MJACOBS (DRAFT)
IO/UNP:TNILES (DRAFT)
S/P:MSPIEGEL (DRAFT)

-----015301 040312Z /61

R 032359Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:AO, OAU, XA

SUBJECT:US AFRICA POLICY: SHABA, SOVIET/CUBAN INVOLVEMENT
AND THE OAU

REF: STATE 153145

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES THE PROMPT AND WELL THOUGHT OUT
REPLIES TO REFTEL. AS EXPECTED, COMMENTARIES REFLECTED
NOT ONLY THE DIVERSITY OF VIEWS AMONG OUR EMBASSIES, BUT
ALSO THE VARIETY OF PERSPECTIVES AROUND THE AFRICAN CON-
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TINENT. THERE WAS GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT WE MUST BE
CAUTIOUS IN ATTEMPTING TO MOVE THE AFRICANS TO TACKLE THE
TOUGH ISSUES OF PEACEKEEPING. THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY
OF POSTS WERE NOT SANGUINE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR AN OAU
CONSENSUS ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION. POSTS WERE SPLIT OVER
A ROLE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN AFRICAN
PROBLEM-SOLVING.

2. POSTS' RESPONSES PRODUCED A VARIETY OF SUGGESTIONS FOR BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM ACTIONS TO RESOLVE AFRICAN CRISES. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN COLLATING THESE SUGGESTIONS, AND WILL BE ANALYZING THEM IN A STUDY OF THE OAU, ITS POTENTIAL AND WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD BE HELPFUL. CERTAIN SUGGESTIONS ARE ALREADY BEING FACTORED INTO PAPERS ON PRE-OAU CONSULTATIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF THE SHORT LEAD TIME BEFORE THE OAU SUMMIT WE WILL BE ONLY DEALING WITH SELECTED POINTS IN CONSULTATIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. WE WILL BEGIN THE PROCESS WITH AN APPROACH FIRST TO INCOMING OAU CHAIRMAN NUMAYRI FOLLOWED BY A LIMITED NUMBER OF FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATIONS WITH THOSE LEADERS MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE ISSUES AT HAND. WE PROPOSE BEING SELECTIVE IN OUR APPROACHES IN ORDER TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF A U.S. ORCHESTRATED SCENARIO WHICH COULD UNDERCUT THOSE LEADERS WHO CAN HELP IN ADVANCING OUR GOALS.

4. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE NO QUICK EASY FIXES TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE OAU AND AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING. THIS WILL BE A LONG-TERM PROPOSITION BOTH FOR THE OAU AND OURSELVES. UNDER MODERATE SUDANESE LEADERSHIP (1978-79) AND LIBERIAN (1979-80) WE BELIEVE THE OAU HAS THE POTENTIAL FOR BETTER COMING TO GRIPS WITH REGIONAL PROBLEMS. ONCE THE SUMMIT
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IS OVER WE CONTEMPLATE A STRATEGY OF ASKING SELECTED POSTS TO WORK WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS ON SPECIFIC IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE. WE WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH NOT ONLY OUR TRADITIONAL FRIENDS BUT WITH OTHERS WHO MAY BE RECEPTIVE ON PARTICULAR SUBJECTS. VANCE

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